

Message Text

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PAGE 01 JAKART 09691 210552Z

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /010 W

-----010678 210557Z /23R

P 210500Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2612

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PASS AGRICULTURE FOR HATHAWAY AND OGSM

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, ID

SUBJECT: PL-480

REF : STATE 168360

1. GENERAL ARIFIN, HEAD OF BULOG, COULD NOT PROVIDE ESTIMATE OF 1977 RICE CROP AS OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT OF RICE CROP SIZE CAN ONLY BE MADE BY PRESIDENT SUHARTO. ARIFIN SAID OFFICIAL DETERMINATION OF 1977 CROP SIZE WOULD NOT BE MADE FOR MONTHS. PRESIDENT WILL ANNOUNCE SIZE OF CY 1976 CROP ON AUGUST 16. AG ATT OFFICE EXPECTS CY 1977 CROP TO BE ABOUT 15.4 MILLION METRIC TONS AS WEATHER CONDITIONS NOT GREATLY DIFFERENT FROM 1975 WHEN CROP TOTALED AN ESTIMATED 15.3 MILLION TONS. ALSO WIDESPREAD INFESTATION OF RICE PADDIES WITH WERENG (LEAV HOPPER) PEST REDUCED 1977 YIELDS. THIS, GOI REPLITA II TAGRET FOR CY 1977 RICE CROP OF 17.24 MILLION TONS WILL NOT BE ACHIEVED.

2. ARIFIN SAID AS OF JULY 19 BULOG RICE STOCKS WERE 816 THOUSAND TONS. BULOG'S DISTRIBUTION REQUIREMENTS JULY 1977 TO MARCH 1978 ARE PLANNED AT 1,535,000 TONS. IMPORTS DURING SAME PERIOD ARE SCHEDULED TO BE 1,513,000 TONS THUS BULOG STOCK POSITION WILL BE ABOUT SAME ON APRIL 1ST AS AT PRESENT.

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PAGE 02 JAKART 09691 210552Z

IMPORT SCHEDULE INCLUDES 500,000 TONS OF US TITLE I PL-480 RICE IN PERIOD JULY/MARCH WHICH MEANS GOI COUNTING ON 350,000 TON ADDITION TO MAY 17, 1977 TITLE I AGREEMENT.

3. ARIFIN SAID BULOG PROCUREMENT OF DOMESTIC RICE TO END OF JUNE HAD BEEN 330,000 TONS AND HE EXPECTED PROCUREMENT OF ANOTHER 80,00 TONS IN JULY BRINGING TOTAL FROM 1977 CROP TO 410,000 TONS.

4. RICE CONSUMPTION IN INDONESIA ESTIMATED TO BE 120 KILOS PER CAPITA PER YEAR OR TOTAL ANNUAL REQUIREMENT OF 16.2 MILLION TONS. BULOG STOCKS AT 816,000 TONS THUS EQUIVALENT TO ONLY 18.4 DAYS TOTAL CONSUMPTION. ARIFIN MAINTAINS BULOG SHOULD HAVE MINIMUM OF ONE MILLION TONS STOCKS AT ALL TIMES TO CARRY OUT RICE PRICE STABILIZATION FUNCTION OF BULOG WHICH VITAL TO GOI'S CONTROL OF INFLATION. BULOG DISTRIBUTION PLANS CALL FOR HEAVIEST ALLOCATIONS IN MONTHS OF TRADITIONAL RICE SHORTAGE BETWEEN CROPS FROM OCTOBER TO MARCH. SCHEDULED RELEASES FROM BULOG WAREHOUSES IN WINTER MONTHS ARE ABOUT DOUBLE THOSE IN SUMMER MONTHS. FOR EXAMPLE, BULOG PLANS TO RELEASE ON THE MARKET 325,000 TONS IN JULY/SEPTEMBER QUARTER, 612,000 TONS IN OCTOBER/DECEMBER QUARTER AND 598,000 TONS IN JANUARY/MARCH QUARTER.

NEWSOM

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED AGRICULTURE

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Message Attributes

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